

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**  
**BLACK-FOOTED FERRET REINTRODUCTION**  
**ON PRIVATE PROPERTY**  
**LOGAN COUNTY, KANSAS**

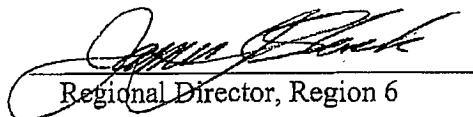
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is proposing a five-year experimental reintroduction of black-footed ferrets onto private grazing lands in Logan County, Kansas. These sites are owned or managed by four private landowners.

An Environmental Assessment was prepared which evaluated three alternatives-- a no action alternative, the proposed action and a delayed alternative.

The proposed action would release black-footed ferrets into black-tailed prairie dog colonies under a Section 10(a)1A permit issued to the Service's Kansas Ecological Services Field Office. The reintroduction sites include the Smoky Valley Ranch owned by the Nature Conservancy and the Haverfield/Barnhardt/Blank complex located south of Russell Springs, Kansas. Release techniques will be patterned after successful procedures used at other reintroduction sites. Captive raised black-footed ferrets will be adequately "preconditioned" prior to release in the wild. Translocated wild born black-footed ferrets may also be reintroduced and would occur if removal of wild born ferrets at existing reintroduction sites is determined compatible with overall ferret management goals. The Service, other cooperating agencies, and the cooperating landowners would continue to seek advice and test release and management strategies and may make minor adjustments in the proposed ferret program when warranted.

A public meeting to present information on the proposed action was held on November 28, 2006 in Oakley, Kansas and a notice of availability for the Environmental Assessment and Section 10(a)1A permit to establish these experimental populations was published in the Federal Register on October 19, 2007.

Based on my review and evaluation of the enclosed Environmental Assessment and other supporting documentation, I have determined that the reintroduction of black-footed ferrets on to the Logan County properties as proposed is not a major federal action which would significantly affect the quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Accordingly, preparation of an environmental impact statement on the proposed action is not required.

  
Regional Director, Region 6

Date 12-14-07